

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over the Valyi '937 reference. The Examiner further objected to claim 4 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim (Claim 1), but indicated that claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim (Claim 1).

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 4. Therefore, Applicants submit that amended claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejected claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Valyi reference and further in view of Haney et al. '167. Claims 2 and 3 are dependent upon newly amended claim 1, now allowable. Applicants submit that claims 2 and 3, dependent upon allowable claim 1 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 4 has been cancelled.

Original claim 5 has been amended to become new claim 4 and be dependent upon newly amended claim 1. Applicants submit that new claim 4 is now in condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully submitted.

Original claim 6 has been amended to become new claim 5 and to claim dependence upon new claim 4. Applicants submit that new claim 5 is in condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully submitted.

Original claim 7 has been amended to become new claim 6 and be dependent upon new claim 4. New claim 6 is in condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Original claim 8 has been amended to become new claim 7 and be dependent upon newly amended claim 1. New claim 7 is in condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Original claim 9 has been amended to become new claim 8. New claim 8 is dependent upon newly amended claim 1 and is now in condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Original claim 10 has been amended to become new claim 9 and be dependent upon new claim 8. New claim 9 is in condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Original claim 11 has been amended to become new claim 10, dependent upon newly amended claim 1. New claim 10 is in condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Original claim 12 has been amended to become new claim 11, dependent upon new claim 10. New claim 11 is in condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Original claim 13 has been amended to become new claim 12, dependent upon newly amended claim 1. New claim 12 is in condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Original and allowed claim 15 has been amended to become new claim 14.

Original claim 16 has been amended to become new claim 15 and dependent upon new claim 14. New claim 15 is in condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Original claim 17 has been amended to become new claim 16 and is dependent upon new claim 14. New claim 16 is in condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Original claim 18 (allowed) has been amended to become new claim 17.

Original claim 19 (allowed) has been amended to become new claim 18.

Original claim 20 (allowed) has been amended to become new claim 19.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected original claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph stating that the “pronounced inward ridge” on line 2 of original claim 17 appears to be a double inclusion of the “inward ridge” set forth on line 12 of original claim 15. The “inward ridge” of original claim 15 is referencing the embodiment disclosed in Fig. 5, which figure shows inward ridge 18. The “pronounced inward ridge 118” describes the embodiment shown in Figs. 1-3 as an alternative to inward ridge 18. The inward ridge 18 and pronounced inward ridge 118 and their distinctions are described in the specification at page 7, lines 8-10; page 8, line 7-10; and page 9, lines 13-17. The structure and distinctiveness of inward ridge 18 is fully described at page 9, lines 18 to page 10, line 4. The distinctive structure of pronounced inward ridge 118 is described at

page 11, lines 6-10.

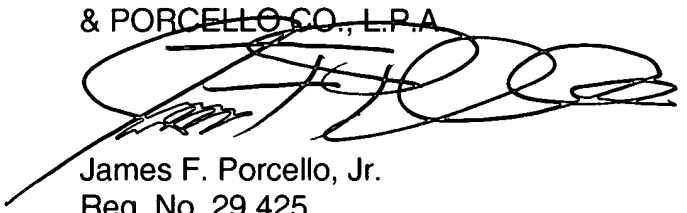
Applicants submit that the pronounced inward ridge as claimed in original claim 17 is patentably distinct from the inward ridge of original claim 15, such distinction being fully supported by the specification.

Applicants further submit that the above-noted distinction between inward ridge 18 and pronounced inward ridge 118 resolves the issues the Examiner has regarding the alleged duplication between original claims 6 and 7 and original claims 16 and 17.

Applicants submit that claims 1-19, as amended, are now in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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